REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate that the drawings are accepted, and to acknowledge receipt of the claim of priority and certified copies of the priority documents.

Summary

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are rejected. Claims 6, 7, 9 and 10 are objected to. The specification is also objected to.

The specification

The specification is objected to because the Abstract includes the terms 'comprising' and 'comprises'. The Abstract is currently amended to change these terms to 'including' and 'includes'.

Claims 1-3, 9 and 10

Claims 1-3, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Noteltiers et al. (U.S. patent 3,777,207) (herein 'Noteltiers').

Noteltiers discloses a halogen filament lamp having filament supporting means in the form of a central supporting wire (19, 41, 43, 45). This support wire extends partly into but not outside the flat pinch seal (3). See, e.g., Figs. 1 and 2.

In contrast, Applicant's claim 1 as currently amended calls for the mount (5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13) to have a non-conducting part (9, 10; 12) such that the outer end (11; 12) of the mount (5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13) at or near the outside of the pinched seal portion (3) and the support wire (5) are electrically insulated from each other.

Noteltiers does not provide such a structure because his support wire (19, 41, 43, 45) extends only partly into the

pinch seal (3), and is thus does not have an outer end 'at or near the outside of' the pinch seal (3).

Moreover, even if Noteltiers' support wire (19, 41, 43, 45) were construed so as to have an outer end at or near the end of the pinch seal, this outer end would be integral with the rest of the support wire, and so could not be electrically insulated therefrom. Stated differently, support wire (19, 41, 43, 45) has electrical continuity from one end to the other. There is no break which could provide electrical insulation of one end from the other.

Accordingly, claims 1-3, 9 and 10 are not anticipated by Noteltiers, and the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5 and 8

Claims 4, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noteltiers in view of Ragsdale et al. (U.S. 5,659,222) (herein 'Ragsdale').

Ragsdale is cited to show a bead portion (38) extending into the bulb for the purpose of improving the support structure of the lamp.

Claim 4 calls for the pedestal to comprise a capillary (9) and a bead (10), while claim 8 calls for a bead (12) which is applied to the outside of the pinched portion. Claims 4 and 8 are currently amended to specify that bead (10) is a 'first bead', and that bead (12) is a 'second bead', thereby differentiating these two different elements with the same name.

Regardless of the above distinction, both the first bead and the second bead are part of the non-conducting portion which insulates the support wire from the end of the mount at or near the outside of the pinch seal.

In contrast, in Ragsdale's arrangement, the contact pins

26 provide the primary support for the filament (28), and bead (38) serves to provide support for support wire (40), which in turn supports the filament (28). Contact pins (26) pass through beads (38) and (40)(sic) to the outside. See Fig. 7.

Thus, in Ragsdale's arrangement, the ends of the contact pins (26) can be considered analogous to the end of the mount at or near the outside of the pinch seal in Applicant's arrangement. As clearly shown, bead (38) does not provide any electrical insulation of the ends of the contact pins from the support wire (40). On the contrary, these two elements are electrically connected via filament (28).

There is no teaching or suggestion in either of the applied references to provide such insulation between the support wire and the end of the mount at or near the outside of the pinch seal.

Accordingly, claims 4, 5 and 8 are patentable over the combination of Noteltiers and Ragsdale, and the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 10

The Examiner has objected to claims 9 and 10 as being in improper form, since they insert process limitations into product claims. These claims are currently amended to cast them in proper process claim format.

Since the applied references do not teach or suggest the process limitations claimed, claims 9 and 10 contain patentable subject matter.

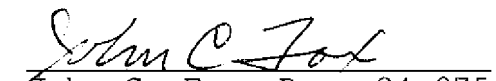
Claims 6 and 7

The allowability of claims 6 and 7 if recast in independent form is noted with appreciation. However, in view of the above arguments, it is felt that all of the pending claims are allowable in their present form.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections and rejections of record, allow all of the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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